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This result may be checked by the geocentric positions. At November 29^d.5, the geocentric coordinates of Mercury are R.A. = 15^h 50^m 58^s, Dec. = — 20° 1'.6, log. δ = 0.1500. The coordinates of the comet, according to the ephemeris mentioned above, are R.A. = 15^h 53^m 23^s, Dec. = — 20° 44'.3, log. δ = 0.1451. According to Nijland's ephemeris (A. N. 160.14), the coordinates of the comet are R.A. = 15^h 54^m 54^s, Dec. = — 20° 37'.7, log. δ = 0.1443. The comet will probably be visible for some time after passing perihelion, as is shown by the following extension of the ephemeris by Mr. Seagrave.

EPHEMERIS.

Date,	R. A.	Dec.	log. r	log. Δ	Br.
1902-3. d	h m s	° '			
Dec. 7.5	15 27 25	— 24 12.9	9.7335	0.1296	10.12
" 11.5	15 15 19	— 26 0.2	9.7868	0.1145	8.49
" 15.5	15 3 13	— 27 52.1	9.8368	0.0958	7.35
" 19.5	14 50 34	— 29 50.6	9.8827	0.0739	6.58
" 23.5	14 36 53	— 31 58.2	9.9244	0.0494	6.08
" 27.5	14 21 13	— 34 15.3	9.9622	0.0225	5.78
" 31.5	14 2 37	— 36 41.9	9.9968	9.9939	5.63
Jan. 4.5	13 39 54	— 39 15.3	0.0284	9.9642	5.58
" 8.5	13 11 30	— 41 48.0	0.0575	9.9347	5.59
" 12.5	12 35 54	— 44 4.7	0.0844	9.9072	5.60
" 16.5	11 52 18	— 45 39.6	0.1093	9.8842	5.55
" 20.5	11 1 56	— 45 59.7	0.1325	9.8688	5.36
" 24.5	10 8 59	— 44 42.3	0.1543	9.8634	4.97

The effect of the disturbance by Mercury can, therefore, be determined with such accuracy that it is hoped that it will give a good value of the mass of that planet. In any case, careful measures of the position of the comet after November 29 are greatly to be desired.

EDWARD C. PICKERING.

HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. WILLIAM SELLERS has been nominated for the presidency of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

PROFESSOR MARSTON TAYLOR BOGERT, of Columbia University, has recently been elected a vice-president of the Society of Chemical Industry (of England).

DR. J. WALTER FEWKES, of the Bureau of American Ethnology, has left Washington for

Porto Rico to continue his ethnological and archeological studies of the West Indian aborigines. His plan of work embraces an examination of caves, village sites, shell heaps and other places of occupation of the prehistoric inhabitants, and a collection of such ethnological data as may shed light on the manners and customs of the Porto Rican Indians. Dr. Fewkes will remain in the West Indies during the winter, and in the course of his work expects to visit Santa Domingo and the Lesser Antilles as far south as the coast of Venezuela.

DR. A. E. KENNELLY has returned to Harvard University from an expedition to supervise the laying of a cable in Mexican waters.

ERNST A. BESSEY, explorer for the United States Department of Agriculture, has returned from his journey into Turkestan, and has entered the University of Halle for further botanical study. The easternmost point reached by him was Andijan, in the province of Ferghana.

At the annual meeting of the American Antiquarian Society, held at Worcester, Mass., on October 21, 1902, Dr. Albert S. Gatschet, of the Bureau of American Ethnology, and Dr. Alexander F. Chamberlain, of Clark University, were elected members.

THE HON. C. A. PARSONS, F.R.S., known for his work on the steam turbine, has been elected an honorary fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY will confer the degree of LL.D. on Professor Adolf Lorenz, the Viennese surgeon, at present in this country.

THE committee on science and arts of the Franklin Institute has recommended the award of the John Scott legacy medals and premiums to William A. Doble, of San Francisco, for his improvements in tangential water wheels; to Norton P. Otis, Rudolph C. Smith, John D. Ihlder and August Sundt for their improvements in electric elevators for private residences; to James Reagan, of Philadelphia, for his improvements in grate bars, and to H. Ward Leonard, of Bronxville, N. Y., for his system of motor control.

DR. SWALE VINCENT, lecturer on histology at the University College, Cardiff, and formerly assistant professor of physiology at University College, London, who has already made numerous contributions to the literature of the ductless glands, has been appointed to the research scholarship for the study of the thymus and other ductless glands recently established in England by Mr. J. Francis Mason. Mr. Mason has also made a donation of £200 to the laboratory of the Edinburgh Royal College of Physicians to enable the medical superintendent, Dr. Noel Paton, to carry out a combined research on ductless glands.

MR. L. DONCASTER, of King's College, Cambridge, has been granted the university table at the Naples Zoological Station.

PROFESSOR RIBBERT, of Marburg, has been appointed director of the Pathological Institute at Göttingen in succession to Professor Orth, who has succeeded the late Professor Virchow as professor of pathology in Berlin.

PROFESSOR PERCIVAL, vice-principal of the Surrey and Kent South-Eastern Agricultural College at Wye, has been appointed director of the agricultural department at the University College, Reading.

PROFESSOR E. E. BARNARD, of the Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago, gave two lectures in New York city last week, his subject being 'Nebulæ and the Nebular Theory.'

THE New York Academy of Medicine held its fifty-fifth anniversary meeting on November 6. Dr. Andrew H. Smith made an address entitled 'Past, Present and Future of the Academy,' and Major W. C. Gorgas and Surgeon Ross described the measures that have suppressed yellow fever in Havana.

THE Harben lectures of the Royal Institute of Public Health were given in King's College, London, by Major Ronald Ross, C.B., F.R.S., lecturer on tropical diseases, University College, Liverpool, on November 10, 11 and 12. The subject was 'Intermittent Fever.'

WE learn from *Nature* that the British home secretary has appointed a committee to

inquire into the use of electricity in mines and the dangers attending it, and to report what measures should be adopted in the interests of safety by the establishment of special rules or otherwise. The committee consists of Mr. H. H. S. Cunynghame, C.B. (chairman), Mr. Charles Fenwick, M.P., Mr. Archibald Hood, past president of the Mining Association of Great Britain, Mr. James Swinburne, president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, and Mr. W. N. Atkinson and Mr. A. H. Stokes, H.M. inspectors of mines. The secretary of the committee is Captain A. Desborough, H.M. inspector of explosives.

A PORTRAIT of the late Professor Peter Guthrie Tait was unveiled in the combination room of Peterhouse College on October 29. Lord Kelvin made the speech of presentation and a speech was also made by Sir George Stokes.

THE University of London has addressed a letter of sympathy to the University of Berlin on the occasion of the death of Professor Virchow.

MR. GEORGE HUESMANN, who at one time filled the chair of pomology and forestry in the University of Missouri, and was known for his contributions to pomology and viticulture, has died in California at the age of seventy-five years.

DR. ROBERT C. KEDZIE, for forty years professor of chemistry at the Michigan Agricultural College, died on November 7, at the age of seventy-nine years.

DR. FREDERICK A. PACKARD, of Philadelphia, past president of the Pathological and Pediatric societies, died on November 1, at the age of forty years.

THE Rev. Dr. Wiltshire, from 1872 to 1896 connected with King's College, London, as lecturer and professor of geology and mineralogy, died on October 25. He published in 1859 a treatise on 'The Red Chalk of England,' which was followed by 'The Ancient Flint Implements of Yorkshire' (1862), 'The Chief Groups of the Cephalopoda' (1869), 'The Red Chalk of Hunstanton' (1869), and later by 'The History of Coal' (1878).

THE Association of German Men of Science and Physicians will hold its meeting next year at Kassel.

A LOCAL section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers has been established at Pittsburgh, and held its first meeting on November 6.

MRS. PHOEBE HEARST'S gifts for archeology and anthropology at the University of California amounted to \$111,000 during the last academic year. Excavations have been made in Egypt by Drs. Reisner, Gunfel and Hunt and in Peru by Dr. Uhle, while Dr. Alfred Emerson has made extensive collections of Greek, Roman and Etruscan antiquities. Dr. Kroeber and Mr. Goddard have been engaged in work among the Indians in California.

THE public library which Mr. Andrew Carnegie has given to the city of Washington will be dedicated on December 16. It is hoped that Mr. Carnegie will be present.

THE cornerstone of the New York Public Library was laid by Mayor Low on November 10. The marble façade of the building, on Fifth Avenue and 42d St., is already partly erected; when completed it will cost over \$3,000,000.

The Electrical World and Engineer states that the German Society of Engineers has undertaken the publication of a polyglot technical dictionary, and solicits the cooperation of engineers throughout the world to render the work of the highest possible value. Dr. Alfred Müller, 150 Nassau Street, New York, is authorized by the Society to arrange in this country for collaboration in the work, and application may be made to him for further information on the subject. Mr. Müller will supply collaborators with note-books especially arranged for their use.

THE New York Civil Service Commission announces examinations on November 29, to fill the position of bacteriologist in the state hospitals at a salary of \$100 a month; and of physician with a salary beginning at \$900 a year and increasing to \$1,000.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE subscriptions for the completion of the buildings of the University of Durham College of Science in memory of Lord Armstrong amount to £31,000, and an anonymous donor has promised £10,000 additional if the total should reach £50,000 by the end of the year.

PROFESSORS of Cornell University who reach the age of seventy years will hereafter be retired with a pension. Their salary will be continued for one year, and they will thereafter receive \$1,500 a year for four years, which time will doubtless be extended. They will act as special lecturers with such duties as may be assigned to them. Professor I. P. Roberts, of the College of Agriculture, is the only man of science who will be affected by this provision.

DR. JOSEPH SWAIN, formerly professor of mathematics at Indiana and Stanford Universities, and since 1893 president of Indiana University, will be installed as president of Swarthmore College, on November 15.

THE Boston *Evening Transcript* states, we do not know how correctly informed, that Professor Jacques Loeb, of the University of Chicago, will go to the University of California to accept its newly established chair in physiology.

PROFESSOR E. A. FUERTES has resigned the directorship of the College of Civil Engineering, Cornell University, but remains connected with the University as professor of astronomy.

DR. WILLIAM H. WALKER has been appointed associate professor of industrial chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. For the past few years he has been a member of the firm of Little and Walker, consulting chemists, and in this connection he has had a valuable technical experience.

AT Cambridge University Mr. J. S. Gardiner has been appointed demonstrator in animal morphology in succession to Mr. J. Graham Kerr.

MR. R. W. H. T. HUDSON, B.A., St. John's College, Cambridge, has been appointed lecturer in mathematics at University College, Liverpool.